

REMARKS

Claims 12-17 and 32-37 are pending in the present application. In the above amendment, claims 12-14 and 16 have been amended, claims 1-11 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 32-37 have been added.

In the Office Action mailed April 15, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11 and 19 under prior art. The Examiner further indicated claims 12-17 as having allowable subject matter.

While not necessarily acquiescing to the art rejections with regard to claims 1-11 and 19, and to further advance prosecution of the present patent application, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-11 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have further amended claims 12-14 and 16 into independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 12-17 and new apparatus claims 32-37, which correspond to allowed method claims 12-17, are in condition for allowance.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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